

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK IS FEB. 13-19 Troopers Plan to Step Up Enforcement and Public Awareness Efforts**

Alabama state troopers, along with law enforcement and traffic safety agencies statewide, will be working to increase awareness of Alabama's child restraint laws and the importance of consistent, proper child safety restraint usage during Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week, a national safety campaign planned for Feb. 13-19.

Troopers will place special emphasis on enforcement of Alabama's child restraint law throughout the period during regular patrols and at school zones in rural areas. "Troopers will be on the lookout for violators and will ticket all who fail to comply with the law," said Col. Mike Coppage, Department of Public Safety director. "Children need and deserve the protection of a properly installed and secured safety restraint."

Alabama's child restraint law requires that child passengers through age 5 in front and back seats be properly secured in a child restraint. Those children through age 3 must be in a child safety seat, while 4- and 5-year olds must be secured in a child safety seat or a regular safety belt.

Coppage stressed the importance of proper child safety seat installation. He encouraged parents and childcare providers to select the appropriate restraint for each child, making sure the restraint is a good fit and is properly installed in the vehicle.

Additional information on Alabama's child restraint law and proper use of child safety seats is available from Public Safety's Public Information/Education Unit. A list of contacts follows:

#### **Public Information/Education Unit Field Officers**

Huntsville, Decatur	Tpr. Curtis Summerville (256) 518-9573
Quad Cities	Tpr. Denise Collins (256) 383-9212
Gadsden/Jacksonville	Tpr. Paul Mashburn (256) 546-4993 ext. 229
Montgomery	Tpr. Donald Frazier (334) 242-4445
Dothan	Cpl. Tracy Nelson (334) 983-4587
Evergreen	Sgt. Tommy Waters (251) 578-1315
Mobile	Cpl. Jack Collier (251) 660-2340 or (251) 660-2300
Birmingham	Sgt. Tim Sartain (205) 322-4691
Tuscaloosa	Cpl. Chris Ellis (205) 553-5531
Selma	Tpr. John Reese (334) 874-8234

2-11-05

*for more information contact:*

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